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1. REPORT DA	Т ТҮРЕ					3. DATES COVERED (From - To)			
06/16/2014 Technical Report									
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE						5a	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
Implementation Guidance Document:									
General Risk of Significant Injury Equation						5b	5b. GRANT NUMBER		
						50	5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
						30	JC. I ROGRAM ELEMENT NOMBER		
c AUTHOR(c)						Ed	5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S) Risk of Significant Injury Technical Working Group:						50			
Wesley Burgei, Shannon Foley, Jennifer Preston, Ashley Raba, James									
Simonds, Thomas Dayton, Michael Jirjis, Eric Beier, and Lt Col John						5e	5e. TASK NUMBER		
Gibbons									
		5f. V			. WC	RK UNIT NUMBER			
7. PERFORMIN	G ORGANIZATIO	N NAME(S) ANI	D ADDRESS(ES)					8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION	
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<u> </u>			Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234					NUMBER(S)	
			*					JNLW14-067	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT									
DISTRIBUTION A: Approved for public release.									
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES									
14. ABSTRACT									
The RSI Technical Working Group (TWG) developed a recommendation for a general RSI equation that is consistent with									
the language and intent of DoD Instruction 3200.19.									
15. SUBJECT TERMS									
Non-lethal, risk of significant injury, human effects, RSI Technical Working Group									
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16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			7. LIMITATION OF 18. NUMBER ABSTRACT OF		19a. NA	a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON			
a. REPORT	b. ABSTRACT	c. THIS PAGE	ADSTRACT		PAGES				
						19b. TE	LEP	HONE NUMBER (Include area code)	
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Form Approved

OMB No. 0704-0188

General Risk of Significant Injury Implementation Guidance Document

Risk of Significant Injury Technical Working Group

16 June 2014

DoD Instruction 3200.19 describes the general procedure for assessing the reversibility of non-lethal weapons by determining the risk of significant injury (RSI). Further, it establishes the health care capability (HCC) indices as a standard in which to determine whether injuries are or are-not "significant". HCC indices are contained in the set {0, 1, 2} where HCC0 is associated with limited first Responder Capability, HCC1 = First Responder Capability (emergency care), HCC2 = Forward Resuscitative and Theater Hospitalization Capabilities. Injuries are significant if they are permanent³, cause death, or require medical care greater than or equal to the care described in HCC index 1. RSI is a measure of the potential or probability of a non-lethal weapon to cause a significant injury.

Mathematically, RSI can be represented as the probability of causing a permanent injury <u>or</u> death <u>or</u> an injury requiring HCC index 1 or 2;

Eq. 1
$$RSI = P_{SI} = P_{(PI \cup death \cup HCC \ge 1)}$$
.

Since death is permanent it will always be a subset of permanent injury and will not add to the overall RSI calculation. Figure 1 shows a notional Venn diagram of the three "events" that must be accounted for in an RSI calculation. The "death event" is always completely contained within the "permanent injury event". Therefore, equation 1 can be simplified to

Eq. 2
$$P_{SI} = P_{(PI \cup HCC \ge 1)}$$
.

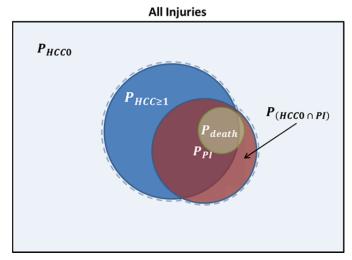


Figure 1: Notional Venn diagram of death, PI, and HCC injury "events".

Generally, the union of these two events can be expanded as the sum of the individual probabilities minus the intersection of P_{PI} and $P_{HCC>1}$:

Eq. 3
$$P_{SI} = P_{PI} + P_{HCC \ge 1} - P_{(PI \cap HCC \ge 1)}$$
.

PI and HCC \geq 1 are not independent events as they are both correlated to the actual severity of the injury. For example, the probability of having a permanent injury if the HCC is 0, is certainly different than the

¹ DoD Instruction 3200.19, Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW) Human Effects Characterization

² Ibid. (Enclosure 3)

³ DoDI 3200.19 defines permanent injury as "Physical damage to a person that permanently impairs physiological function and restricts the employment or other activities of that person for the rest of his or her life."

⁴ This statement is consistent with the definition of RSI in the glossary of DoDI 3200.19. The figure on page 9 of the DoDI does not mention permanent injuries; however the definition makes it clear that the overall intent is to include permanent injuries and death.

probability of permanent injury given $HCC \ge 1$, or $P_{(PI|HCC0)} \ne P_{(PI|HCC\ge 1)}$. Therefore, P_{PI} and $P_{HCC\ge 1}$ need to be treated as conditional probabilities.

By definition

Eq. 4
$$P_{(PI \cap HCC \ge 1)} = P_{PI} \cdot P_{(HCC \ge 1|PI)}$$

and redistributing yields

Eq.5
$$P_{SI} = P_{HCC \ge 1} + P_{PI} (1 - P_{(HCC \ge 1|PI)}).$$

Substituting⁵

Eq.6
$$1 - P_{(HCC \ge 1|PI)} = P_{(HCC0|PI)}$$

into the P_{SI} equation yields the general RSI equation

Eq.7
$$RSI = P_{SI} = P_{HCC \ge 1} + P_{PI} \cdot P_{(HCC0|PI)}$$
.
or
 $RSI = P_{SI} = P_{HCC \ge 1} + P_{(HCC0 \cap PI)}$.

It is likely that for most injury types the probability that the injury is <u>permanent</u> **and** requires <u>HCC0 level</u> <u>care</u> is zero. ⁶ In that case Eq. 7 is reduced to

Eq. 8
$$P_{SI} = P_{HCC \ge 1}$$
.

In some cases for practical reasons, P_{SI} cannot be calculated directly but instead models or data provide the probability of injury occurrence (significant or not). In those cases the RSI equation (Eq. 7) has to be modified to include the probability of injury occurrence, P_{IO} , and P_{SI} becomes conditional given an injury occurred,

Eq. 9
$$RSI = P_{IO} \cdot P_{(SI|IO)}$$

= $P_{IO} (P_{(HCC \ge 1|IO)} + P_{(HCC0 \cap PI|IO)}).$

For many non-lethal stimuli there is potential to cause more than one type of injury. In those cases, total RSI is calculated by aggregating individual injury probabilities (using either Eq. 7 or Eq. 9) which themselves may or may not have conditional relationships to each other. However, the conditional injury aggregation is outside the scope of this paper and will be covered in future RSI implementation guidance.

⁵ HCC \geq 1 and HCC0 are mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive.

⁶ A potential example where this might not be true is for permanent threshold shifts (PTS) for hearing. By definition it is a permanent injury but likely does not require HCC 1 or 2 to treat.